

EQUINE AND CANINE TRAINING



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSION

The Georgia Department of Corrections protects the public by operating safe and secure facilities through the development of professional staff and effective offender management.

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner

Alan Watson, Chief of Staff

Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner Inmate Services Division

Equine & Canine Training programs are provided to state offenders at specific facilities throughout the state. The equine program is offered to female offenders at Pulaski State Prison and Lee Arrendale SP. Canine training and rescue programs are provided to female and male offenders at multiple facilities across the state. Upon completion of the program, offenders receive certificates through partnerships with the Technical College System of Georgia.

Equine Rescue Program

HISTORY

- Began in 2008
- GDC learned of the Department of Agriculture's (DOA) need for space for neglected and abused horses and entered into an agreement with DOA to assist.
- Former Pulaski State Prison Warden, Tom Chapman, contacted DOA to offer space for these neglected and abused horses

OVERVIEW

- Partnership with Department of Agriculture
- DOA confiscates neglected and abused horses and transports them to a GDC facility for care and treatment
- Horses are nursed back to health by offenders and sold at auction
- Healthy horses are trained and cared for by offenders
- All medical, feed, and necessary equipment provided by DOA
- Local DOA staff provide an on-site evaluation of impounded animals and provide care and handling instruction to the offenders
- Can accommodate up to 10 horses

PARTICIPANTS

- Must be a high school graduate or hold a GED, read at a 12th grade level, complete the SAGE Occupational Assessment and match the skill sets identified to complete the courses
- Offenders must be within 18-36 months of their tentative parole month (TPM) or max out date
- Crime type is reviewed and may preclude participation in the program
- Receive Veterinary Assistant/Animal Healthcare credit certificate from Central Georgia Technical College
- Must meet outside detail criteria

LOCATION

Pulaski State Prison: Hawkinsville, Georgia

- 3 run-in shelters
- 4 pens
- 50-foot round pen
- 2 stalls
- 1 mile (approx.) riding trail
- 1 barn
- Sea container to keep hay and tack supplies



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Vision Guide Dog Program

HISTORY

- Began at Metro State Prison (SP) in August 2002 as a collaboration with Southeastern Guide Dog, Inc. in Florida and Middle Georgia Technical College
- Moved to Metro Transitional Center in 2011, and moved again to Burruss Correctional Training Center in 2008

PARTICIPANTS

- Must be a high school graduate or hold a GED, read at the 12th grade level, complete SAGE Occupational Assessment and match the skill sets identified to complete the courses
- Offenders must be within 18-36 months of their tentative parole month (TPM) or max out date
- Crime type is also reviewed and may preclude participation in the program
- Positive Disciplinary Record (DR) record: no assaultive disciplinary reports or participation in major institutional disruption within the last 12 months

OVERVIEW

- Partnership with the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. in New York
- Dogs to include Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Shepherds, Collies, and Standard Poodles, are brought into a facility and trained for 12-16 months
- Dogs are returned to the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind to complete their final orientation and mobility training for 4-6 months
- Upon completion of training, the dog is matched with a visually impaired student
- Student and dog participate in a week of additional training at the Guide Dog School before returning to their home

FACILITIES

Burruss Correctional Training Center

- 12 to 15 dogs
- Dogs are housed and sleep in a kennel/classroom with an offender aide on duty
- Handlers groom dogs daily, train, and provide structured playtime for the dogs
- Class time for handlers always include their assigned dog
- Volunteer raisers take dogs on the weekends to provide socialization opportunities
- Offenders interviewed by Instructor before being admitted into the program
- Offenders can earn two, 15-credit hour certificates and two On-the-Job Training (OJT) certificates through Central Georgia Technical College in Animal Healthcare Assistant, Computer Technology and Customer Service, Animal Caretaker OJT, and Dog Groomer OJT

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Canine Rescue Program

OVERVIEW

These programs rescue and rehabilitates dogs that may otherwise be euthanized while positively impacting the offenders within the facility: saving detainees and dogs, one life at a time.

FACILITIES

Foster/rescue dog and provide housing, basic training and socialization to prepare the dogs for adoption.

The following facilities participate:

- Lee Arrendale State Prison
- Augusta State Medical Prison
- Colwell Probation Detention Center
- Metro Reentry Facility
- Burruss Correctional Training Center
- Jenkins Correctional Facility
- Pulaski State Prison
- Riverbend Correctional Facility

PARTICIPANTS

Selection process includes:

- Detainee essay
- Background check
- Assessed institutional history
- Interview
- Training provided from various organizations

Detainees can earn certification in the following areas:

- Pet first aid and CPR
- On-the-job training for grooming
- Georgia Best
- Animal Caretaker
- Dog Training